

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GR, TU

SUBJECT: MINISTER OF COORDINATION PAPALIGOURAS SPEAKS AT
OPENING OF THESSALONIKI FAIR

1. COORDINATION MINISTER PAPALIGOURAS, SUBSTITUTING FOR PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS WHO IS IN BED WITH SCIATICA, GAVE THE TRADITIONAL "STATE OF THE ECONOMY" SPEECH TO OPEN THE THESSALONIKI INTERNATIONAL FAIR ON SEPTEMBER 3. MOST OF HIS SPEECH CONCENTRATED ON ECONOMIC THEMES, WHICH WILL BE REPORTED SEPARATELY. HOWEVER, HE MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS OF INTEREST ON DEFENSE AND GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS (AS REPORTED IN THE SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEWS AGENCY BULLETIN).

2. "NATIONAL AND POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS MAKE IT NECESSARY THAT WE ORIENT OUR FOREIGN POLICY, INCLUDING ITS ECONOMIC ASPECTS, TOWARD THE WEST AND, MORE PARTICULARLY, THE DEMOCRACIES

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OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY". AT THE SAME TIME, PAPALIGOURAS POINTED OUT, THE GOG HAD DEVELOPED USEFUL RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES OF DIFFERING SOCIO-ECONOMIC SYSTEMS, I.E. THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, AND ESPECIALLY ITS BALKAN NEIGHBORS, AND WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

3. PAPALIGOURAS THEN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT MINOR IRREGULARITIES

EXISTED IN GREECE AS ELSEWHERE IN A WORLD WHERE THE EXISTING SOCIO-ECONOMIC SYSTEM WAS BEING CHALLENGED. HE WENT ON TO SAY "DEMOCRACY AND GOOD ORDER ARE UNDERMINED IN GREECE BY IRRATIONAL OR UNWISE SUPPORTERS OF THE TWO EXTREMES OR, SOMETIMES, BY GROUPS OF PEACE-LOVING AND TRULY DEMOCRATIC CITIZENS MUTUALLY MISLED. HOWEVER, GREEK DEMOCRACY IS IN NO DANGER, BECAUSE IT HAS A GOVERNMENT DETERMINED AND CAPABLE OF IMPOSING ORDER AND SAFEGUARDING FREE INSTITUTIONS."

4. PAPALIGOURAS THEN TURNED TO THE RECENT PAST AND BLAMED THE "PARANOIC POLICY OF THE DICTATORSHIP" FOR OPENING THE WAY FOR "OUR NEIGHBOR TO THE EAST" TO PROVOKE EVENTS THAT LED TO THE CYPRUS TRAGEDY AND OTHER PROBLEMS. COMMENTING ON THE LEVEL OF DEFENSE EXPENDITURES, WHICH HE SAID REPRESENT 6.5 PER CENT OF THE PER CAPITA NATIONAL INCOME, PAPALIGOURAS TRACED THE INCREASES OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS (IN BILLION DRACHMAE): 1973 - 15.1; 1974 - 23.9; 1975 - 36.9; 1976 - 46.9; AND 1977 - (PROJECTED) AT LEAST 53.1. HE THEN SAID, "THE INCREASE IN OUR MILITARY EXPENDITURE IS CLEARLY OF A DEFENSIVE NATURE. WE WOULD LIKE TO RESTORE, TO OUR MUTUAL BENEFIT, THE TIES OF GOOD NEIGHBORLINESS AND EVEN COOPERATION WITH TURKEY. HOWEVER, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT WE SHALL DEFEND OURSELVES IF WE HAVE TO PROTECT OUR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND DIGNITY. IF OUR NEIGHBORS IN THE EAST, MISLED BY HISTORICALLY OUTDATED IDEOLOGIES, PROVOKE AND ARMED CONFLICT, BEFORE EVEN MAKING SUCH A DECISION -- AS THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRIME MINISTER REMARKED IN PARLIAMENT ON MAY 20 -- THEY WOULD HAVE TO THINK CAREFULLY WHO WOULD SUFFER THE GREATEST WOUNDS: THE DEFENDER OR THE AGGRESSOR."
MILLS

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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